



RELIGION AS A PLEASURE.

It should be a Comfort to all, from the Children to the Aged.

We have often noticed that many people look upon their religious duties as so many irksome tasks to be got rid of as quickly as possible, just as anything else would be that is tiresome and disagreeable. There are no doubt many different causes for this unnatural state of mind; we will not, however, attempt to dive down into the deep mysteries of many souls but refer briefly to one or two causes of this strange distaste for religion which have come more especially under our personal notice.

For instance, we think that very often we make a grave mistake with our children. Parents and others frequently punish the faults of the young who are under their charge by giving them religious tasks. They set them so many words, sentences or pages to learn out of some sacred book, or give them some prayers to recite. This is a grave error, as religion is thus early associated in the children's mind with punishment instead of pleasure. This statement of ours may be objected to on the ground that in Confession, precisely the same thing is done by the priest as God, who generally gives some prayer or act of devotion as a penance for the sins confessed. There is, however, a distinct difference in this, first of all, the penance for children is but light, and secondly, it is imposed upon the little penitents by wise and kind priests with such sweetness that the irksomeness to which we refer does not exist in such cases. For instance, a child confesses to a priest some tiny childish peccadillo; the good Father sees the microscopic defects in the little soul before him and knows that if not checked now, they may become in later years great sins or even crimes. He therefore gently points out simple words, suitable for the understanding of the little penitent before him, that God will not love him if he do not try to avoid such faults, and then the good priest, perhaps, goes on to speak of the sweetness and holiness of the Innocent Jesus and the tender regard that He and His beautiful mother have for children who try to overcome their faults. The little one who is kneeling in the confessional is softened and soothed; the sacrament of penance is a pleasure not a pain to him, and when the priest gives him a short prayer or two to say, as an atonement or reparation of the faults he has confessed he goes away happy, and as he kneels before the Blessed Sacrament, or at our Lady's altar, his little soul is filled with joy and penance is very often a sweet pleasure to him. There is nothing irksome in such a religious act, nothing whatever that can make a child feel a distaste for devotion. No, with wisdom and discretion, children can easily be made to desire to go to confession or perform any of the other religious duties. But the self-same acts if they are forced upon children's minds unwisely, may produce precisely opposite results.

PENNIES FOR THE PLATE.

A London Catholic Journal Writes on the Subject.

One can never go to church but he is bothered about money. This is the sort of thing you hear a thousand times over in the course of a year. It is always said petulantly, and the speakers are commonly people so well dressed and well fed and comfortable looking that you conclude they do not suffer much by what they are bothered out of.

There is nothing very much meaner than a mean critic of a good man. There is no nobler specimen of humankind than the hard working Catholic priest, whose whole life is a career of self-sacrifice. All the joys and pleasures that attach us to life he foregoes. Lonely, save for the consolation God bestows, he gives himself with all the earnestness of his heart and strength of mind and body to the service of the Church; nor does he look for wealth or family preferment or any reward save that which is not of this world. And how does he serve the church? By laboring all his life through to make us better men and women. In our hearts and minds he finds the field for his efforts.

We realize the fruits of his culture, and our children realize them, and the laborer, what is his wages? A consciousness of duty done and sometimes the consolation which abides in the thought that he owns the gratitude of some he has striven for, whom, were the need to arise, he would lay down everything, even his life. Every one of us knows that this is the simple truth.

Now, a parish is a bit of machinery that requires a lot of lubricating. The church, the schools, the poor, the sick, and even the priest's baker are wheels and shafts whose bearings cannot be kept from squeaking unless the monetary oil can be used. If a man works for us we must supply him with materials. When a priest is directing a parish, he is running our machine. Surely, then, we are bound to supply him means to prevent it breaking down. To this end he needs the oil of our good will and sympathy; but he also requires the lubricating power which lies in dollars and cents. These it is nothing short of our duty to extend to him. When a parish priest asks money, it is not for his behalf but to promote our interests.

That is a very pitiable individual which wars against its own welfare by resenting such an appeal. But it is a very common character. It can be met waiting near the church door any Sunday after Mass, when a collection has been asked self-satisfied, plump, generally with an ample quantity of cuffs and collar or gorgeously cloaked and bonneted, and full of eloquence touching "how it is always the money question." Such are just the people who rarely drop anything but pennies into the plate; but if occasionally they give a dollar or so toward a special work, they do so with as much flourish as if it were at least ten or twenty. They are indeed the mean critics.

Then, let us all give with a good heart toward our church, according to each one's means, be they large or small. In this respect the Church leaves us absolute freedom, so that all are free to exercise their own judgment in the matter.—*The Lamp.*

Mr. Gladstone Presented With the Freedom of Cardiff.

LONDON, July 6.—The Hon. Mr. Gladstone was this afternoon presented with the freedom of the City of Cardiff. In acknowledging the gift, Mr. Gladstone referred to the American constitution as a marvel of political wisdom exhibiting benefits in contrast to too much centralization whereof France was an example. He would have liked, Mr. Gladstone said, to have brought with him the illustrated address sent to him from New York, but it was too bulky and he had therefore brought the address sent him from Illinois. The expressions in these addresses he said ought to give material reflection to every prudent English gentleman. In concluding the Grand Old Man said: "We first tell other nations and at the last listen to our advice."

It is not work that kills men, it is worry. Work is healthful, worry is rust upon the blade. Fear seizes a soul, but love and trust are sweet juices.

It only adds to your burdens to fret. To work hard is very well, but to work hard and worry too is more than human nature can bear.

WHAT FAITH CAN ACCOMPLISH.

A Church in North Carolina Built by Three Girls.

It was in the spring of 1837 that three Catholic girls (graduates of St. Joseph's, Emmetsburg, and converts to our holy religion), conceived the idea of building a small church to the honor and glory of God in the town of Edenton, N.C. The few Catholics (twelve in number) were compelled to worship in a small room in one of their houses, where, sometimes once a year a missionary priest came to offer up the Holy Sacrifice and administer the Sacraments. The want of a house dedicated to God was deeply felt by them; yet their poverty and slender means rendered such a building impossible, and God, in His wisdom and mercy, inspired these young converts to begin the great work. In the wilds of North Carolina and among Protestants of every persuasion, they set to work without a farthing in their pockets. The project was at first proposed to the missionary priest by the youngest of the three girls. He answered with a smile, "You poor child!—do you expect to make a mountain out of a mole hill?" "Yes," she replied. "St. Theresa (when about to build her convent) said: 'Theresa and ten ducats can do nothing; but God, Theresa and ten ducats will build a convent; and she was sure that God and three girls could build a church.' The good priest was incredulous, and said he would have nothing to do with it. Not daunted by this refusal, the young lady determined to apply to her Protestant father, which she did, and received from him not only his approval, but \$100 in money to begin the work. She went at once to Baltimore, and appealed to Archbishop Kendrick, telling him her project, plans, hopes and fears. The answer of the Most Rev. Archbishop deserves to be written in letters of gold. Placing a \$20 gold piece in her hand, he said: "Go, my little apostle, with my abundant blessing; you will succeed, with the help of God," and writing a letter, requesting the assistance of his entire congregation, he started the little beggar on her first mission for God, saying: "Be sure, my child, to put the insults in your heart, and the money in your pocket." Away she went, from house to house, and from door to door, her heart being often the recipient than her pocket; for many doors were shut in her face without waiting to hear her appeal. Fearing nothing, and hoping all things, she journeyed through the entire city, day after day, week after week, and had the happiness of returning home with \$685 50. The land which had been promised to her by her father was secured in the highest and best located part of town. Our good priest, Rev. Father Croghan, was at once notified of our success. He came to Edenton and made arrangements for the commencement of the building, which foundation was begun on the Feast of St. Ubald, May 16th, 1837, the birthday of the little beggar. Our Rev. Father was, no doubt pleased with this beginning, yet he gave us no encouragement, for "he was sure we would fail," and being a very timid man he dreaded the thought of debt. His parting injunction was, "the work should go on till the money gave out, and then the work must stop." We promised to obey him, and after his departure began in earnest to collect money. The eldest of the three young ladies proposed to do her part by translating French books into English (and here let me state that the literary world is indebted to the building of this little church for several books in the English language—"Captivity of Pius VII.," "Laura and Anna," etc.) Another young lady offered to teach music, and all three proposed to attack both priest and people through the post. A directory was secured and we began to write letters, taking the Archbishops, Bishops and Priests in alphabetical order; and not only in the United States were our wants made known, but one of our party was brave enough to address Father Faber, of the Oratory of St. Philip, Prince Hohenlohe, and even the great Cardinal Antonelli. The correspondence was laid on the Feast of St. Ann, by Bishop Lynch, of Charleston, who preached an eloquent sermon to an audience of several hundred Protestants. The few Catholics hovered near him and with tears and prayers besought our God to water with His precious blood the planted seed so singularly and so wonderfully manifested in this desert land. No priest assisted on the occasion; the poor Catholics, four men, five women, three children and three convert girls made up the procession—the Bishop first, in his robes, followed by one of the young ladies with a bowl of water and a piece of cedar (a substitute for the "Asperges"), after whom came another young lady bearing the box for the corner-stone. There was not a dry eye in the little band, and truly it was a sight worth the blessing of God—and God did bless us; for though at times the clouds would envelope us, and the treasury grow small, still among the shavings and lumber the three little apostles would kneel down, and sing hymns, and make Novenas, and implore the King of Kings to send us help, and ere the dawn of another day the treasury would be replenished and the work would go on. Late in the fall, 1837, our good priest visited us and seeing the building nearly completed he offered to help us; and left his mission and traveled North, where, among the charitable, he secured \$1,500, which sum completed the church—the whole costing the sum of \$5,650—a proof of the little things of this world being used by God to confound the strong. The

AN EXTRAORDINARY OUTRAGE.

A More Vindictive and Conscienceless Set of Enemies Never Conspired Against Any Man.

[From the New York Sun, July 2.]
In all the history of courts and criminal cases we cannot recall an instance in which the forms of justice have been perverted into persecution in a manner more remarkable than has been exhibited to Mr. Alexander Sullivan by a considerable portion of the press of Chicago, and apparently by some of the agents of justice. Mr. Sullivan is a lawyer of ability and position. He has lived in Chicago for many years and is widely known there. He is also prominent among the Irish Nationalists who follow Mr. Parnell. In former years, we are told, he has been a conspicuous figure as a Republican politician. It appears that many months ago he withdrew from all connection with the Clan na Gael and that he was not on friendly terms with Dr. Cronin, the member of that Order who has lately been murdered. As soon as the investigation into the murder was commenced by the Coroner's jury great care was taken to attach suspicion to Mr. Sullivan's name. Half the reporters of Chicago would appear to have been employed in this work. His bank account was looked into, and also his stock purchases, and, without inquiring whether these operations had been made on his own account or for some client, the public were promptly assured that he had appropriated to his own use a large sum of money belonging to the Irish cause, and that for this reason he had taken part in the murder of Cronin, and probably had even been the author of it. Finally the Coroner's jury in their verdict introduced his name as that of a man implicated and he was arrested; and as soon as a Judge laid his hands upon the so-called evidence, it was decided that there was nothing at all in it to affect Mr. Sullivan, and that he must be released. Released he was accordingly, but the Grand Jury having now commenced its inquiry into the murder, the people of the country were daily regaled with the information that new evidence against Sullivan had been discovered, and that he was sure to be indicted. This was reported daily, and the very day before the presentment of the Grand Jury was made we were notified that Sullivan was certain to be indicted in it; yet when the papers were handed up in court, there was in them nothing concerning him. The Grand Jury had found no evidence whatever to require his indictment. Yet the conspirators were not satisfied, and they promptly resumed their function by reporting that the next Grand Jury would surely indict Mr. Sullivan, and that this one had not done it because they had not had time to examine the whole subject!

AFFAIRS AT SAMOA.

Truce Between the Rival Kings.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., July 7.—The steamship *Albatross*, from Apia June 22, brings 5 officers and 60 men of the United States ship *Trenton*, wrecked in the great storm. Admiral Kimberly, Lieut. Brettonhouse and Miran and 3 men remained at Apia. There is no American warship there now. The natives vigorously attacked the American sailors when they left. Quietude had prevailed in Samoa for the past six weeks. The German gunboat was the only man-of-war in the harbor. The Nipic is at Honolulu for repairs. She started for Auckland under convoy of the *Alert*. They started on May 9, but after proceeding 250 miles found it unadvisable to proceed further and returned to Apia. Admiral Kimberly censured Commander Muller, of the Nipic, for this, and Muller asked to be relieved of his command. Lieut. Commander Lyon, of the *Trenton*, was put in command and the vessels were again ordered to Honolulu. Captain Muller came as a passenger on the *Albatross*. The engineer, G. W. Hale, of the Nipic, died of dysentery at Leone. Mataafa and Tamaze have agreed to a truce pending the result of the Berlin conference. Mataafa gave a great feast recently and invited all foreigners, but no Germans attended. A German saloon-keeper, while carefully handling a revolver, accidentally shot one of the *Trenton's* sailors. The event caused some excitement, but the saloon-keeper was discharged by the German consul. Numerous gifts have been presented by the American Government to the natives for their heroic conduct in assisting the American vessels and men during the hurricane. The Nipic had to stop at Fanning Island on account of shortness of coal. The *Alert* reached Honolulu. She will return with coal and assist the Nipic to Honolulu.

MARCHING ON NICARAGUA.

Costa Rican Troops on the Frontier Threatening War—The Cause of the Trouble.

NEW YORK, July 4.—A special from Panama says:—Costa Rican troops are marching rapidly upon Nicaragua, and a war in which all the Central American republics may become embroiled is expected to break out at any moment. It is more than possible, also, that the United States Government may be called upon to interfere to protect its newly created interests in the Nicaragua canal. A formidable body of Costa Rican troops are already massed on the frontier. The trouble arises out of the old boundary dispute between Costa Rica and Nicaragua, which it was supposed had been settled by the decision of ex-President Cleveland last spring. As will be remembered, the judgment was in favor of Costa Rica. Nicaragua ostensibly acquiesced in the verdict, and the occasion was celebrated throughout Central America as the happy dawn of an era of peace. When Costa Rica proceeded to act upon the decision by making a contract with Engineer Menocal, occupying lands and privileges needed for the great canal where the San Juan river ran for about sixty miles throughout the disputed territory, and denominated the work "The Nicaragua and Costa Rica Canal," a howl was raised in Nicaragua, and Cleveland's decision virtually repudiated. Costa Rica offered to settle the question by accepting an indemnity recognizing her rights in the San Juan, but this was refused.

SIMOON AND COBBOURGH HAVE DESTRUCTIVE BLAZES.

Simoon, Ont., July 6.—About two o'clock this morning a fire broke out here that ultimately did considerable damage, and which for some time threatened to destroy a number of the finest business blocks in the town. The fire was first discovered in the stable of ex-Mayor Hayes, which is situated immediately behind the Batterby house. The livery, barn and residence of A. Hillier, together with a portion of their contents, were burned; next to these stood the fine brick American hotel, which together with its brick barn, was totally consumed. The bake shop of Chas. Minor was burned, as was also the rear part of Marshall Bros.' pork establishment. The Arthur block, containing Stevenson's tailorshop, Arthur's photo gallery, MacIntosh's barber shop and Broad's billiard parlor, also suffered considerably.

RIOTERS KILLED BY POLICE.

DULUTH, July 7.—One thousand five hundred street employees who went on strike a few days ago became unruly yesterday afternoon and they attacked police with stones and compelling them to fire. Two strikers were killed and several dangerously wounded. The militia have been called out.

DISPUTES ARE INNUMERABLE.

Commissioners, ministers extraordinary and those who sit in high places are bandying words with no effect. The press is flaming with articles redundant with patriotic expressions, which, by the way, it is needless to add, do not amount to a row of pins. The two countries are rampant, ready to devour each other at small notice; chaos and confusion are everywhere; all listening to reason is set aside; business transactions are retarded prostrated, and an inconstant vacillation affects even those who wish to transmit abroad an accurate account of affairs.

CARDINAL SCHOENBERG, WHO IS BARELY 44 YEARS OF AGE, IS THE YOUNGEST MEMBER OF THE SACRED COLLEGE, AND IS A MAN OF REMARKABLY FINE PRESENCE.

He served for several years in one of the orank Hussar regiments, rose to the rank of Captain, and was decorated for his conspicuous gallantry during the great battle of Koenigsgratz in 1866. This cross was the only one ceremony of his recent installation as Cardinal. He left the army and entered Holy Orders in 1873, and for the past five years has been Archbishop of Prague. His brother is Minister of Justice in the present Austrian Cabinet.

WHILE THE PROTESTANT POPULATION OF BERLIN IS 1,200,000 ONLY 30,000 OF THEM ARE CHURCH GOERS.

On the other hand, while Catholics number but 100,000, at least 60,000 are regular in assisting at Mass and in receiving the sacraments. It is a fact that many of the Catholics in Berlin are prevented from hearing Mass on Sundays through lack of church rooms. There are several parishes having 20,000 souls with only church room for 500.

BEWARE OF HIM WHO MEETS WITH A FRIENDLY MILE, AND, IN THE MIDDLE OF A CORDIAL SALUTATION, SEEKS TO AVOID YOUR PLACER.—LAVATER.

General Bernardo Soto is full of military ambition, and since his accession to the presidency of Costa Rica, five years ago, has been extremely jealous of the preponderating influence in Central American councils exercised by Guatemala and Nicaragua. Those in his confidence say that the ambition of his life is to unite the five Central American republics under his leadership and to establish himself in a commanding position in a new capital city on Lake Nicaragua, which would become the Constantinople of America. As a step in this direction, he has been preparing for the two years past for an invasion and conquest of Nicaragua. He is said to be well supplied with arms, his forces are well organized and he is backed by English capital.

TALK IN THE COSTA RICA SENATE IS TO THE EFFECT THAT WAR IS INEVITABLE IF AN ATTEMPT IS MADE TO CUT THE CANAL THROUGH ANY PART OF THAT COUNTRY.

General Guardia, a well known warrior, says that the Government is taking active measures for defence, so as to be prepared for possible surprise. All strategic points have been inspected with a view to manning men should occasion arise. It is also stated that Costa Rica proposes buying one or more war vessels from Chile.

WAR TALK IS HEARD ON EVERY SIDE, BUT A PROMINENT ENGINEER JUST RETURNED TO NICARAGUA FROM THE UNITED STATES DECLARES THAT THE COUNTRY WOULD NOT BE LIKELY TO TOLERATE ANY INTERFERENCE WITH THE CANAL BY COSTA RICA, AND THAT THE PARTY NOW IN POWER WILL BE TAUGHT THAT THE stipulations agreed to by their predecessors cannot be declared null and void for the sake of provoking a conflict.

Incorporated by the United States government (as fauted by the company) will not hold good in the case of provoking the United States government to step in as mediator for the arrangement of what is actually nothing more or less than the preliminary business of the company, which it (the company) has signally failed to arrange in the very first instance. There is no doubt about it that the knowledge of Mr. Blaine's tendency toward a vigorous foreign policy has gained ground here, and so encouraged the people with that idea that they fancy he will compel Costa Rica to conform to Cleveland's decision.

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